

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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Conyers Condemns Texas Three-Judge Panel Decision as Attack on Minority Voters and Voting Rights Act

Representative John Conyers, Jr., (D-MI) ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee, released the following statement today after a three-judge federal panel upheld a new congressional map for Texas:

“Once again minority voters have been forced to pay the price in the Republican party’s drive to manipulate the election process. Just like in south Florida, African-Americans and Latinos have been disenfranchised as part of a strategy to steal a Republican victory. The new Texas congressional redistricting plan upheld today by the three-judge court will not only disenfranchise 3.6 million African-Americans and Latinos, it will undermine the Voting Rights Act and the rights of all minority voters across the nation.

“From the outset, the Texas congressional redistricting process has been tainted by much more than the customary political rivalry accompanying decennial redistricting. From calls being placed by high-ranking Texas Republican officials requesting the aid of the Justice Department in locating Democrats protesting the irregular legislative process to the inexplicable recusal of the recently appointed Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Section 5 review of the plan, there has been a concerted effort at all level of the Republican party to abuse the process and the rights of minority voters in Texas.

“The Voting Rights Act and its protections have long been regarded as a sacred trust by both parties. However, from media accounts of congratulatory comments on the Texas redistricting plan’s “righting some wrongs” attributed to the Vice President to the most recent Section 5 determinations by the Department of Justice, it seems clear that partisanship at the highest levels has compromised our national commitment to the Act. Partisanship at the expense of a national commitment to civil rights will only set this nation on the path to further division. Just like with their opposition to affirmative action in higher education, this administration has turned its back civil rights and placed this nation on the road to darker days.”

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